

## **Board of Health Report – May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

*Lainnie Emond, LMHC*

### ***Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:***

- Lainnie continues to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force. She has engaged in no planning as the March and April meetings were canceled due to social distancing measures.
  - *Upcoming Meetings: May 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm.*
- Lainnie continues to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually.
- Lainnie continues to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force.
- Lainnie continues to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report, as the PDMP grant ends in September 2020.

### ***Lowell CO-OP and Related Efforts:***

- Lainnie continues to be involved in administrative planning for the Lowell CO-OP, including co-facilitating Lowell CO-OP Supervisors Meetings and working with team and grant partners to ensure effectiveness of the team. All meeting are being held virtually or via conference call at this time.

### ***Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:***

- Lainnie continues to be the point person for [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) (see MOAPC report).
- Lainnie continues to managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division. The Division is checking-in twice a week via a virtual platform to share updates and provide mutual support.
  - Lainnie, Maricia (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), Joe (Clinical Recovery Specialist), and Shannon (Outreach Health Educator) have been working from home since the last week of March. Andres (Syringe Collection Program Coordinator) has continued to respond to incoming syringe pick-up requests and proactive pick-ups.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

**\*\* Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle. \*\***

**Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster):** Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

- No updates at this time.

**Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):**

- Several organizations within the MOAPC cluster offer Narcan training and Narcan kits while engaging in appropriate social distancing measures.

**Drug Free Greater Lowell Website**

- [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) is being maintained via the MOAPC grant. A page was created that identifies COVID-19 resources related to mental health, substance abuse treatment and recovery, and youth prevention.

**2020 Website Analytics**

	Jan	Feb	Mar*	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total page Views	645	497	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*\*Analytics for March were unavailable at the time that this BOH report was submitted.*

**Other Updates**

- It was announced by BSAS on April 13<sup>th</sup> that the MOAPC grant will be extended through June 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. BSAS reported that they had to adjust their timeline to release the new prevention RFR due to COVID-19, and in doing so made the decision to extend the MOAPC and Substance Abuse and Prevention Collaboration (SAPC) grants.
- Due to the grant extension, the MOAPC Coalition Coordinator position job description will be posted.
- The Greater Lowell MOAPC/Tewksbury SAPC Coalition has rebranded as the Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex as a sustainability measure to address substance misuse prevention in the cluster communities with or without grant funding.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)  
*Shannon Gray, Outreach Health Educator*

***Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):***

**PFS Social Media Campaign:**

Shannon has recently begun working with a contracted graphic designer on the Social Media Youth Campaign. The campaign had been started prior to Shannon starting as Outreach Health Educator. As the campaign uses “memes” to share messages, previously created draft memes and messages were reviewed, and new meme and message ideas were passed along to the contracted graphic designer for creation. Shannon received feedback from the PFS grant’s assigned Technical Assistance (TA) Liaison, and plans to make necessary edits within the next month. Once these edits have been made, we will be gathering youth feedback from an online survey about the possible memes instead of running focus groups.

***Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):***

**“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign**

The educational flier for the parent campaign has been completed and approved by the PFS grant’s TA Liaison and BSAS Grant Coordinator. Shannon is working with PFS Coalition members to identify additional methods of flier distribution to reach parents of high-school aged youth, as social distancing measures set in place for COVID-19 have impacted direct contact. A majority of the fliers will likely be shared through online resources rather than the original idea of printing hard copies.

***Monthly Meeting:***

The Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2pm via Zoom. The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> and will be held virtually.

***Outreach Health Educator Position:***

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Shannon and other nonessential staff at the Lowell Health Department have been working from home since the last week of March. Shannon has created, and is continuing to update, a new timeline for PFS grant activities to adjust for recommendations set in place for COVID-19.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)  
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

**Lowell CO-OP Data**

--	Mar 2019	Mar 2020*	Total 2019	Total 2020
<b>Total Encounters</b>	32	33	667	134
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	28	14	378	78
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	6	0	100	21
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	9	0	116	10
<b>Section 35</b>	0	0	20	3
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	5	7	40	11
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	3	2	141	13
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	14	16	158	26
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	0	2	33	5
<b>Other Services</b>	2	6	47	19
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	--	0	1581	43

*\*Due to restrictions placed on Lowell CO-OP staff because of Corona virus (COVID-19), data analysis has been restricted to electronic records only. When remote work requirements are lifted the data analysis of both electronic and paper records will be revised.*

**Outreach and Educational Events**

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, outreach and educational events have been temporarily suspended.

**Relationship Building**

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, in-person relationship building has transitioned to phone and email conversations. Although no new relationship building was engaged during March and April, Lowell CO-OP team members have maintained contact with local partners and collaterals working with the same population.

**Additional**

- 3/23/2020: In order to reduce the physical presence of employees in public buildings, the City of Lowell asked that non-essential workers begin working remotely. Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and Clinical Recovery Specialist were included in those who were asked to work remotely.
- At this time, all but one Lowell CO-OP member is working from home or has been temporarily reassigned within their agency/department to assist with COVID-19 needs.
- Posting for the Youth Outreach Specialist position has closed. It was decided to postpone interviews until COVID-19 concerns subside and interviews can be held in-person.

Syringe Collection Program  
*Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator*

***City Department and Community Partner Engagement:***

- Lowell Community Health Center
- Life Connection Center
- Healthy Streets
- UMass Lowell
- Trinity E.M.S.
- Middlesex County Superior Court
- Mass DOT
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

***Virtual Meetings Attended:***

- 3/27/2020: Lowell SSP Stakeholder Meeting/H-RACK Study Presentation (Zoom)
- 4/15/2020: Homeless Lowell Providers Meeting (Zoom)

***Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:***

- Dutton Street Bridge
- Riverfront Park
- Le Lachur Park
- Lowell Locks
- Eastern Canal Park
- Hunts Falls Bridge
- George Street
- Favor Street
- Rogers Street Bridge
- South Common Park
- North Common Park
- Thorndike Overpass
- Eastern Canal Park
- Concord River
- Point Park
- Bridge Street Park
- River Bike Path
- Lincoln Street

**Syringe Collection Activity 2019 and 2020**

Total Number of...	March 2019	April 2019	March 2020	April 1-22 2020	Total 2019 (Apr-Dec)	Total 2020
Discarded pick-up requests*	--	8	21	7	188	72
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	--	6	11	6	144	44
Syringes picked-up while responding to <b>all</b> discarded pick-up requests	--	49	547	26	2,214	1,083
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	--	0	0	0	443	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	--	493	727	668	8,615	3,294
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	--	9	40	38	329	172

*\*Discarded syringe pick-up request from City Employees (ie. police, fire) and Trinity EMS.*

*\*\*Discarded syringe pick-up request from Lowell residents.*